

## DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE HISTORY OF HUNTER'S RIVER

Exerpts from *Historical Records of New South Wales. Vol. IV. Hunter and King. 1800, 1801, 1802. Edited by F.M. Bladen. Sydney: Charles Potter, 1896.*

### GOVERNOR KING TO THE DUKE OF PORTLAND

Sydney, New South Wales

28th September, 1800

My Lord,

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.....I am much concerned to inform your Grace that the rumours of a troublesome spirit among the Irish lately sent to this colony for sedition (which existed before my arrival here) has lately proceeded to a very great height, and according to much corroborating evidence, given to a committee of officers, civil and military, appointed to investigate the business, there is much reason for apprehending that the principal people among them have been irritating the restless disposition of these people, which has not a little been aggravated by the artifices of Harold, the priest, and several others...

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Should this spirit of restlessness still exist, which I shall do my utmost to prevent, it will become necessary to remove a great part of the insurgents to another establishment which may be formed at Port Stephens, that place being in the vicinity of the Coal River ; but as a small civil and military establishment would be necessary for that purpose, which our numbers will by no means admit of, I humbly beg leave to apprise your Grace of what may be necessary, that it may be provided for if it should meet your approbation. I have done myself the honour of stating my ideas on this head in a separate letter, which I humbly submit to your Grace's consideration.

PHILIP GIDLEY KING